

I CLAIM:

1. A method for differentiating two separate values in intermingled casino chips, said method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving primary signals from a first transponder embedded in at least one first class casino chip, said primary signals containing value information;

receiving secondary signals from a second transponder embedded in at least one second class casino chip, said secondary signals containing value and identity information;

10 determining in a computer system a wager value corresponding to the at least one first class casino chip based only on the value information from the received primary signal;

15 determining in said computer system a game value and class identity for a game wager corresponding to the at least one second class casino chip based only on the value and class identity information from the received secondary signals.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the game value is a non-denominational value.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the game value is a denominational value.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of determining the game value and class identity further includes the step of qualifying a player to receive a jackpot.

5. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of funding a bonus pool based on the presence of said second class casino chip.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of determining the game value and class identity further includes the step of recognizing use of the second class casino chip only during scheduled promotional events.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of determining the game value and class identity further includes the step of identifying said second class casino chip as a progressive wager.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of determining the game value and class identity further includes the step of indicating that a player qualifies for both a live card game and a progressive game.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the received secondary signals also includes player identity, and further including the step of determining in the computer system the identity of the player based on said received secondary signals.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of determining the game value and class identity occurs only during a time period.

11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the computer system uses the game value to issue a game signal corresponding to at least one of the following:

- incrementing a meter,
- funding a bonus pool,
- funding a promotion,
- triggering a device.

12. An intelligent casino chip system for differentiating and valuing two separate wagers in casino chips, said casino chip system comprising:

5 at least one casino chip of a first class having a first transponder embedded therein, said first transponder at least containing value information;

at least one casino chip of a second class having a second transponder embedded therein, said second transponder at least containing value and class information;

10 a game wager area for containing said at least one casino chip of said first class and said at least one casino chip of said second class;

15 a receiver system located in the vicinity of said game wager area for receiving said value information from said at least one first transponder, said receiver system determining a first wager value only from the value information received from said at least one first transponder;

20 said receiver system further receiving said value and class information from said at least one second transponder, said receiver system determining a second wager value and identity based only on the value and class information received from said at least one second transponder, thereby differentiating and valuing said separate wagers when said first and second category casino chips are placed in said game wager area.

13. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 12 wherein the second transponder further comprises:

a memory having a datafield;

5 an encrypted ID carried within said datafield for identifying said at least one second class casino chip as being of said second class.

14. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 12 wherein said value and class information identifies said second class casino chip as a progressive wager.

15. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 12 wherein said value and class information identifies a player.

16. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 12 wherein said value and class information identifies a player as qualifying for both a live card game and a progressive game.

17. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 12 wherein said value and class information is denominational.

18. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 12 wherein said value and class information is nondenominational.

19. A casino chip system for differentiating and valuing two separate wagers intermingled in a stack of casino chips, said casino chip system comprising:

5 at least one gaming table having at least one discrete player area, said at least one discrete player area further having a discrete betting area;

 at least one casino chip of a first class having a first transponder embedded therein, said first transponder at least containing value information;

10 at least one casino chip of a second class having a second transponder embedded therein, said second transponder at least containing value and class information;

 a primary wager placed in said discrete betting area, said primary wager comprised of said at least one casino chip of said first
15 class in the stack;

a secondary wager intermingled with said primary wager in said discrete betting area, said secondary wager comprised of said at least one second class casino chip in the stack;

20 a system located on said gaming table in the vicinity of said discrete betting area for receiving first transponder value signals from said first transponder and second transponder value and class signals from said second transponder;

25 a computer connected to said system, said system delivering said received first transponder value signals and second transponder value and class signals to said computer, said computer determining a primary wager value from said at least one first transponder value signals and a secondary wager value and identity from said at least one second transponder value and class signals, thereby differentiating and valuing said separate wagers when said primary
30 wager and said secondary wager are intermingled in said stack.

20. The intelligent casino chip system of Claim 19 further comprising:

a plurality of gaming tables; and

5 an interface at each of said plurality of gaming tables for linking each of said plurality of gaming tables, wherein said value and class information is denominational.